



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/776,311

02/02/2001

Naofumi Ueda

55583(2012)

6714

21874

7590

10/16/2006

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. BOX 55874
BOSTON, MA 02205

EXAMINER

POON, KING Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2625

DATE MAILED: 10/16/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/776,311

Applicant(s)

UEDA, NAOFUMI

Examiner

King Y. Poon

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 July 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02 February 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The new title filed on 7/7/2006 has been accepted.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 16: Claim 16 is claiming during print of a first password attached print job of entering a second password for a second print job (lines 4-8). This seems to contradict the newly amended claimed limitation of requiring the first print job not to be printed while entering a second password for a second print job. In claim rejection, it is assuming the claim is claiming "during print of a first password attached print job of entering a second password for a second print job."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-7, 9-16, 18, 19, 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al (US 6,058,249).

Regarding claim 1: Matsuda teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, image forming apparatus 200) for carrying out the printing of print jobs transmitted from a host device in order of receipt (fig 19, printing data is generated in a PC via external interface controller 118 and sent to printer via input/print section & controller 122 & 124), said apparatus comprising: a queue management unit (fig 19, main controller 114 with print Que tables) that holds at least first and second print job (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) to which passwords is attached (any (more than one) print job that can not be executed, column 16, lines 14-16, column 23, line 64) and which is transmitted from said host device together with normal print jobs (the job that is having priority between 1-7, fig. 34) for which no password entry is required in a queue, and that manages the order of all print jobs (fig 19, & column 15 lines 40-42 & 56-59, print jobs for any data acquired by performing the printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function &, column 16, lines 13-14, are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114), until said passwords are entered (column 16, lines 15-23, password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of password); and a control unit (fig. 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) for sequentially carrying out, upon entry of the passwords (note) of the at least first and second print jobs which are held in the queue prior to the printing of the at least first and second print jobs (all print job that are stored in a que before that are printed, column 15, lines 55-59), the printing of said password-attached print jobs in order of entry of the password in preference (note) over the normal print jobs, which

Art Unit: 2625

require no password entry, that are waiting to be printed (column 23, line 62 - column 24:line 9, password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has been correctly input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and validated. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Regarding claim 2: Matsuda et al., teach wherein said control unit stores the password-attached print jobs in said queue in a print hold status (column 23:lines 63-67, password print jobs that does not have a correctly inputted password are held in the print Que table, prevented from executing), moves a password-attached print job for which the password has been entered to the end of print jobs stored in said queue while releasing the print hold status, and carries out the printing of the password-attached

Art Unit: 2625

print jobs for which the passwords have been entered in order of release of said print hold status (column 16:lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. Column 24, lines 1-2, when a password is input, the hold status is removed when the priority level is changed to 8. It follows that when print jobs with correct password input are given higher priority, they are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed before those future print jobs of equivalent priority levels).

Regarding claim 3: Matsuda et al., further teach a main CPU (fig. 3, main CPU 30; inherently, CPU is control by clock cycles) that controls the start of printing (column 7, lines 32-38, main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200). The clocking of print jobs is met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al. teachings, which has a timing means built in to control the output of the print jobs.

Regarding claim 4: Matsuda et al., further teach a main CPU (fig. 3, main CPU 30; inherently, CPU is control by clock cycles) that controls the start of printing (column 7, lines 32-38, main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200). The clocking of print jobs is met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al., teachings, which has a timing means built in to control the output of the print jobs.

Regarding claims 5-7, 9-11, 12-14, which collectively concern the use of pointers to indicate the ends of the preferenced password print job list and the normal print job list in the Que, Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the sequencing of print jobs is accomplished by a control means (fig 37, main controller 114) that controls the transfer order of the produced data so that the data is subsequently received and preferentially output (column 16, lines 13-14, print jobs are

Art Unit: 2625

selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23, line 62 - column 24, line 9, password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig. 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4). Matsuda et al., do not explicitly teach a control unit that comprises two pointers, one for indicating the end of password-attached print jobs stored in the queue, and one for indicating the end of the normal print jobs stored in the queue, although Matsuda et al., teach the use of priority levels to separate password and normal print jobs, and Matsuda et al., teach registering acquisition information that is used to select the order of output (column 16, lines 9-14). The Office interprets that the pointers in the invention are equivalent to the ordering ability of Matsuda et al., that allows preferential ordering of print queue documents.

Regarding claim 15: Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print apparatus that during printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required (the job that is having priority between 1-7, fig. 34), upon entry plurality (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) passwords of at least first and second print jobs to which passwords are attached, which have been stored in print hold status and are held in a queue prior to printing of the at least first and second print jobs (column 16, lines 14-18, column 15, lines 55-59), the method comprising the steps of: verifying that each of the entered passwords is a valid password for a corresponding

Art Unit: 2625

one of the at least first and second password-attached print job (column 23, line 62 - column 24, line 3, fig 36 with password-input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to # has been entered correctly); printing the at least first and second print jobs in order of valid password entry (note) and after completion of the printing of the normal print jobs under printing, for which no password entry is required, wherein upon entry of valid passwords, the printing of each of the at least first and second print jobs are carried out in preference over the other normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting to be printed (column 16, lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23, line 62 - column 24, line 9, password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in print order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. note).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of

Art Unit: 2625

the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Regarding claim 16: Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print apparatus for sequentially (fig. 33, print by priority) printing a plurality of password-attached print jobs for which password entry is required (column 23, lines 60-67), the method comprising the steps of: verifying, during printing of a first password-attached print job for which password entry is required, upon entry of a password for a second or subsequent password-attached print job that has been stored in print hold status, that the entered password is a valid password for the second or subsequent password-attached print job (column 23, line 62 - column 24, line 3, fig 36 with password-input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to it has been entered correctly.

Password entry occurs at any time a print job from a job in print hold status has been selected for entry of password which includes entering a password for a second password-attached job while a first password-attached job is printing); holding the at least first and second or subsequent password attached print jobs (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) in a queue (column 15, lines 55-59) upon entry of the passwords and prior to printing of the at least first and second or subsequent password-attached print jobs; and printing the second or subsequent password-attached print job for which said valid password has been entered (note) after a predetermined amount of time has elapsed since the completion of the printing of the first password-attached print

Art Unit: 2625

job (column 16, lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 9, password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig 34 teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in print order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. Therefore, the second password-attached print job will print following the completion of the first password-attached print job). Matsuda et al., further teach a main CPU (fig 3, main CPU 30) that controls the start of printing (column 7:lines 32-38, main CPU 30 controls the overall image forming apparatus 200). The clocking of print jobs is met by the clocking of the main CPU in the Matsuda et al., teachings, which has a timing means built in to control the output of the print jobs, which carries out a print job after a predetermined amount of time. In other words, the predetermined time is inherent, because all CPU's tasks are controlled by computer instructions which are controlled by CPU clock.

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of

Art Unit: 2625

the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Regarding claim 18: Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, image forming apparatus 200) for printing least first and second print data items (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) transmitted from a host device in order of reception (fig 19, printing data is generated in a PC via external interface controller 118 and sent to printer via input/print section & controller 122 & 124), said apparatus comprising: a queue management unit (fig 19, main controller 114 with print Que tables) for holding the at least first and second print data transmitted from said host device (fig 19, & column 15:lines 40-42 & 56-59, print jobs for any data acquired by performing the printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function & column 16, lines 13-14, are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114), until passwords are entered (column 16:lines 15-23, password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of password, column 23, lines 60-65), and a control unit (fig 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) for upon entry (note) of the passwords of the at least first and second print data which are held in a queue prior to printing of the at least first and second print data (column 15, lines 55-59, column 16, lines 23-27), sequentially printing at least first and second print data in order of entry of the password and in preference over the normal print jobs, which require no password entry, that are waiting to be printed (column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 9, password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has been correctly

Art Unit: 2625

input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and validated. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Regarding claim 19: Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, image forming apparatus 200) for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception (column 16:lines 13-14, print jobs are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114) while putting at least first and second password-attached print jobs (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password), for which password entry is required, in print hold status (column 23:lines 63-67, password print jobs that does not have a correctly inputted password are held in

Art Unit: 2625

the print Que table, prevented from executing), said apparatus comprising: an input unit via which a password for one of the at least first and second password-attached print jobs is entered (column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 3, fig 36 with password-input menu display), and a control unit (fig 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) whereby the print hold status of said at least first and second password-attached print jobs whose passwords agree with the passwords entered via said input unit are all released, and the printing of said at least first and second password-attached print jobs is carried out in order of password entry (note) and in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting to be printed (column 16:lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. Column 24:lines 1-2, when a correct password is input, the hold status is removed and the priority level is changed to 8. It follows that print jobs with correct inputted passwords are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed before those future print jobs of equivalent priority levels. In addition, Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4), wherein the at least first and second password-attached print jobs are held in a queue (column 15, lines 55-59) prior to printing.

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of

Art Unit: 2625

Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Regarding claim 24: Matsuda et al., teach a printing system (fig 1 , image forming apparatus 200) comprising: a queue management unit (fig 19, main controller 114 with print Que tables) that holds at least first and second password-attached print jobs (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) to which a plurality of passwords are attached and which are transmitted from a host device (fig 19, & column 15:lines 40-42 & 56-59, print jobs for any data acquired by performing the printing function is registered in the print Que Table for printing function), until said password is entered (column 16:lines 15-23, password print jobs are provided a lower priority until designation of password); and a control unit (fig 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) for, upon entry of the plurality of passwords (note), each of which is a password associated with one of the at least first and second password-attached print jobs (column 23, lines 60-65) which are held in a queue prior to printing of the at least first and second password-attached print jobs (column 15, lines 55-60, column 16, lines 23-25), sequentially printing the password-attached print data (note) in order of entry of the passwords and in preference over normal print data that are waiting to be printed and for which no password entry is required (column 23:line 62 - column

Art Unit: 2625

24:line 9, password print jobs which cannot be printed until their password has been correctly input are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is inputted and validated. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non- password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

6. Claims 8, 17, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda et al. (US 6,058,249) & Kageyama et al. (US 6,567,180).

Regarding claim 8: Matsuda et al., teach the printing apparatus accordingly to claim 1 (see rejection above), but do not teach an image list for displaying password-attached print jobs that are in queue in print hold status.

However, Kageyama et al. teach an image list for displaying print jobs that are in queue in print hold status (fig 13 teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al. because it allows the users of the system to visually locate their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is available for release upon correct input of the document's password.

Regarding claim 17: Matsuda et al., teach a printing method used in a print apparatus that during printing of normal print jobs for which no password entry is required (the job that is having priority between 1-7, fig. 34), upon entry plurality passwords of at least first and second print jobs (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password) to which the password are attached, the method comprising the steps of: verifying, upon entry of a password for any of the at least first and second print jobs stored in print hold status, that the password is a valid password for one of the at least first and second print jobs print jobs (column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 3, fig 36 with password-input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to it has been entered correctly); holding the at least first and second print jobs in a queue upon entry of the passwords and prior to printing of the at least first and second print jobs, column

Art Unit: 2625

15, lines 55-60) and printing the at least first and second print jobs in order of password entry (note), wherein printing of the at least first and second print jobs for which valid passwords are entered is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs that are waiting to be printed (column 16:lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired. In addition, column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 9, password print jobs are given a default priority level of 8 when their password is correctly inputted. Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference in print order over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4. Therefore, the second password-attached print job will print following the completion of the first password-attached print job).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allow user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Matsuda et al., do not teach method further comprising a step of displaying a list of password- attached print jobs which are stored in print hold status.

Art Unit: 2625

However, Kageyama et al. teach a display unit (fig 13) for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status (fig 13 teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status). Kageyama et al. also teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state (column 13:lines 29-31 & 36).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the method of displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus method taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is available for release upon correct input of the document's password. Furthermore, the suspended state release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the password print hold status release taught by Matsuda et al.

Regarding claim 20: Matsuda et al., teach printing apparatus according to claim 19 (see rejection above), wherein said control unit (fig 37, panel controller 112 communication with main controller 114) receives a designation of a single password-attached print job from a display unit, compares the password of the designated password-attached print job with the password that has been entered via said input unit, and releases the print hold status of said password-attached print job when the passwords agree with each other, thereby rendering the printing of said password-attached print job possible (column 23:line 62 - column 24:line 3, 5g 36 with password-

Art Unit: 2625

input menu display acquires a password, and releases the specified password-attached print job from its hold status if the password assigned to it has been entered).

Matsuda et al., do not teach the apparatus further comprising a display unit for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status when password entry is received via said input unit.

However, Kageyama et al. teach a display unit (fig 13) for displaying the password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status (fig 13 teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status). Kageyama et al. also teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state (column 13 :lines 29-31 & 36).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is available for release upon correct input of the document's password. Furthermore, the suspended state release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the password print hold status release taught by Matsda et al.

Regarding claim 21: the claim rejection of claim 20 is representative of claim 21. See Kageyama et al., wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of entry of the password

Art Unit: 2625

via said input unit (fig 13 teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status. Furthermore, column 13, lines 29-31 & 36 teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state, thereby designating a particular print job in suspended state for releasing the suspending state. In following with the argument presented in claim 20, the suspended state release in the combination of Matsuda et al. and Kageyama et al. is accomplished by a password being input for releasing a print hold status).

Regarding claim 22: Matsuda et al., teach a printing apparatus (fig 1, image forming apparatus 200) for carrying out the printing of normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, in order of reception (column 16:lines 1 3-14, print jobs are ordered with regard to time of acquisition into the controller 114) while putting at least first and second password-attached print jobs (any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be printed; i.e., needs to enter a password), for which password entry is required, in print hold status (column 23:lines 63-67, password print jobs that does not have a correctly inputted password are held in the print Que table, prevented from executing), said apparatus comprising: an input unit via which a password for the at least first and second password-attached print jobs are entered (column 23:line 62 -column 24:line 3, fig 36 with password-input menu display); a control unit (fig 37, panel controller 1 12 communication with main controller 114) by which, upon entry, via said input unit, of the password for at least first and second password-attached print jobs that has been designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit, the print hold status of the at least first

Art Unit: 2625

and second password-attached print jobs for which the password has been entered is released and the printing thereof is carried out in preference over the normal print jobs, for which no password entry is required, that are waiting to be printed (column 16:lines 13-14, print jobs are selected for execution in the order they have been acquired.

Column 24:lines 1-2, when a correct password is input, the hold status is removed and the priority level is changed to 8. It follows that print jobs with correct inputted passwords are acquired ahead of future print jobs and are printed before those future print jobs of equivalent priority levels. In addition, Fig 34, teaches that default priority levels for printing of print data in a normal, non-password-required state are set at 4. Therefore, the password print jobs with priority level of 8 are given preference over normal print jobs that are given a priority level of 4), wherein the at least first and second password-attached print jobs are held in a queue prior to printing (column 15, lines 55-60).

Note: Although Matsuda does not teach the timing of entering the print job passwords, it would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art that Matsuda's invention would allowed user entered password for protected print jobs at different time (If the password is only allowed to be entered at one time, the printer of Matsuda would only be used one time, and traditionally, a person type in password/character one at a time). In the case of two password protected print jobs, clearly the printer would print the password entered print job first before the password of the other print job is being entered, in the situation that the second print job password is entered after the first password protected print job is in the process of being printed.

Matsuda et al., do not teach the apparatus further comprising a display unit for displaying a plurality of password-attached print jobs that are in print hold status in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of the entry of the password in said input unit.

However, Kageyama et al., teach wherein said display unit displays a plurality of password- attached print jobs that are in print hold status (i.e. print jobs in a suspended state) in such a manner that one of the password-attached print jobs can be designated as the object of entry of the password via said input unit (fig 13 teaches a display list for displaying print jobs in a suspended state, i.e. print jobs in print hold status.

Furthermore, column 13, lines 29-31 & 36 teach an instruction enabling the release of a print job from a suspended state, thereby designating a particular print job in suspended state for releasing the suspending state).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the display for displaying suspended documents taught by Kageyama et al.'s figure 13, in the printing apparatus taught by Matsuda et al., because it allows the users of the system to visually locate their password document in print hold status, enabling each user to visually confirm that their document is available for release upon designation of the document and correct input of the document's password.

Furthermore, the suspended state release taught by Kageyama et al. follows the functionality of the password print hold status release taught by Matsda et al.

Art Unit: 2625

7. Claim 23 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Matsuda in view of Kageyama as applied to claim 22 above, and further in view of Ueda et al (US 5,956,471).

Regarding claim 23: Matsuda et al. & Kageyama et al. teach the printing apparatus according to claim 22, but do not teach wherein a notice is given in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit.

However, Ueda et al. teach wherein a notice is given in the event that the password for the password-attached print job designated from among the password-attached print jobs displayed on said display unit does not agree with the password entered via said input unit (column 8:line 67 - column 9:line 4).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time of the invention to have used the error warning display taught by Ueda et al. in the printing system with a password input unit as taught by Matsuda et al. & Kageyama et al. because it quickly issues a notice to the user that their password input was not correct and the print request was not activated.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments filed 7/7/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With respect to applicant's argument that it is agree that Matsuda does not teach "at least first and second print jobs whose password are entered, where the first and second print jobs are held in a queue prior to printing the password-protected print jobs."

In reply: the examiner has not agreed that Matsuda does not teach "at least first and second print jobs whose password are entered, where the first and second print jobs (before the password of the first and second print jobs are entered) are held in a queue prior to printing the password-protected print jobs."

What is being agree upon is Matsuda does not teach: after the password for the first password protected print job and the password of the second password protected print job are entered, the first password protected print job and the second password protected print job are held in a queue prior to printing the first password protected print job and the second password protected print job; the order of printing the first password protected print job and the second password protected print job are printed in the order of entering the passwords for the first password protected print job and the second password protected print job.

Matsuda teaches "any print job, column 16, lines 14-17, that cannot be executed..." implied that there are more than one print job that cannot be executed.

A print job that cannot be executed is one which cannot be executed unless the password designating it is input.

Column 15, lines 55-59, teaches all print job are being stored in a queue before prior to the printing of the print jobs.

Art Unit: 2625

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Conclusion

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to King Y. Poon whose telephone number is 571-272-7440. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached on 571-272-7402. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 2625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

October 10, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Y. Poon', with a stylized, cursive script.

KING Y. POON
PRIMARY EXAMINER